

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

14 JUNE 2016 AT 10.00 a.m.

**COMPACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATUTORY, VOLUNTARY
AND COMMUNITY SECTOR TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE
COMMON AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Report of the Director of Health and Community Services

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1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board to note and comment on the attached draft Hertfordshire Compact.

2.0 Summary

2.1 The Compact is a voluntary agreement between statutory organisations (SOs) and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in a geographical location. The aims of the agreement are: to foster strong, effective partnerships between public bodies and voluntary organisations beneficial to both sectors, to establish a framework for good partnership working, to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of communities and citizens in the area.

2.2 The Hertfordshire Compact was last updated in 2005, and work to refresh the Hertfordshire Compact since 2015 has been undertaken by a working group that includes representatives from both sectors.

- 2.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board in December 2015 noted the work carried out to refresh the Hertfordshire Compact, and the consultation process for the document.
- 2.4 The consultation process for the draft Compact was targeted at stakeholders and also open to the public. It commenced 15 October 2015 and was open for at least twelve weeks, in line with consultation best practice, until Friday 15 January 2016.
- 2.5 The Compact steering group were pleased to receive 39 responses and have considered and responded to each comment given. Results are currently available on [HertsDirect](#). The Draft Compact has been amended accordingly and can be seen at Appendix A.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Board is invited to note and comment on the attached draft Hertfordshire Compact.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The Hertfordshire Compact is a written understanding between the voluntary and community sector and statutory sectors about how they will co-operate and continue to develop positive working relationships for the benefit of Hertfordshire's communities. The Compact process is one of learning, development and dialogue.
- 4.2 A number of Hertfordshire's District and Borough Councils have their own local Compacts. Some of these have been recently refreshed; others are still used for reference, while others had fallen into disuse. It is recognised that any Hertfordshire Compact would sit alongside local agreements as it would co-exist with the National Compact.
- 4.3 The Hertfordshire Compact was last updated in 2005, and the requirement to refresh the document was recognised by both SOs and the VCS. The SO and VCS considered a new Compact would provide a firm foundation for more sophisticated partnership arrangements.
- 4.4 The work to refresh the Hertfordshire Compact, since March 2015, has been undertaken by a working group that includes representatives from HCC, District and Borough Councils, both Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), the Police and Crime Commissioner's

Office (PCC) and an equal number of representatives from the VCS. The VCS representatives were selected by a network of Hertfordshire voluntary sector Chief Executive Officers established early 2015.

- 4.5 The Steering Group agreed a draft Compact for wider consultation open from October 2015 to January 2016. The consultation was targeted at stakeholders and also open to the public on HertsDirect and on VCS websites.
- 4.6 Thirty-nine responses were received and the steering group considered and responded to each comment given. Consultation results are currently available on [HertsDirect](#). The Draft Compact has been amended accordingly and can be seen at Appendix A.
- 4.7 It is proposed to publish and launch the final version of the Compact in July 2016 once the document has been through the governance processes at all organisations represented at the steering group. Organisations will be invited to a launch event at the Focolare centre in Welwyn Garden City on 20 July to publicly ‘sign up’ to the principles of the Hertfordshire Compact.
- 4.8 The steering group plan to continue working together to implement and embed the Hertfordshire Compact, to evaluate the effectiveness of the document and to work together to manage any disputes or disagreements that may arise. The intention is to review, and refresh if applicable, the Hertfordshire Compact annually.

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| Report signed off by | Director of Health & Community Services |
| Sponsoring HWB Member/s | Director of Health & Community Services, Hertfordshire County Council - Iain MacBeath |
| Hertfordshire HWB Strategy priorities supported by this report | The Compact will strengthen and grow the relationship between statutory organisations and the voluntary and community sector and consequently enable stronger partnership working in the priorities of the H&Wb strategy. |

Needs assessment

The Voluntary Sector Commissioning Strategy 2015-2019 identifies the need to refresh the Hertfordshire Compact as it was last updated in 2005.

Consultation/public involvement

As outlined in the report

Equality and diversity implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment of the Compact has been prepared and implications are considered to be positive. The Compact makes specific commitments to reduce barriers to involvement in the design of programmes, policies and services, to consider and mitigate impacts on service users when funding come to an end, to understand the needs and views of people specifically protected by legislation and other under-represented and disadvantaged groups, and to take practical action to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality and to ensure a voice for under-represented and disadvantaged groups. An 'easy read' version of the Compact is planned so it is accessible for people with learning disabilities.

Acronyms or terms used. eg:

| Initials | In full |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| COPD | Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease |